

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1 – 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A composition suitable for use as a component in a binder for fiberglass, comprising:

a polyacrylic acid polymerized from an acrylic acid monomer in the presence of a ~~phosphite~~ phosphorus based regulating agent to form a phosphite regulated polyacrylic acid, said regulating agent being suitable for use as ~~a crosslinking~~ an accelerating agent in a subsequent reaction step, and crosslinked by a polyhydroxy crosslinking agent without adding a separate accelerating agent, said polyhydroxy crosslinking agent containing no more than one nitrogen ~~carried out in a curing oven at a temperature from 200 °C to 350 °C for ½ to 3 minutes for a product having a binder lost on ignition (LOI) ranging from 1.4% to 25%.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein said ~~phosphite~~ phosphorus based regulating agent ~~further~~ comprises a constituent selected from the group consisting of; sodium hypophosphite, sodium phosphite, potassium phosphite, disodium pyrophosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate, potassium phosphate, potassium polymetaphosphate, potassium polyphosphate, potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium trimetaphosphate, sodium tetrametaphosphate, and mixtures thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein said ~~phosphite~~ phosphorus based regulating agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium hypophosphite, sodium phosphite, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 17, wherein said polyacrylic acid has a weight-average molecular weight ranging from 1000 through 10,000.

22. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~20~~21, wherein the polyacrylic acid weight-average molecular weight is between 2000 and 6000.

23. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein said polyhydroxy crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, triethanolamine, trimethylolpropane, 1,2,4-butanetriol, ethyleneglycol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, pentaerythritol, sorbitol and mixtures thereof.